

EXHIBIT ¹DATE 3/7/13HB ²~~MONTANA PETROLEUM MARKETERS~~
& CONVENIENCE STORE ASSOCIATION

March 7, 2013

To: House Appropriations Committee

Re: Department of Justice-Motor Vehicle Division
Budget Request-DP1201

Dear members of the Appropriations Committee

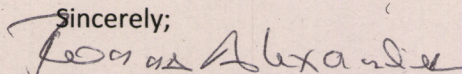
On behalf of the petroleum distribution companies in Montana, we would like to express our support for DP 1201 by the Motor Vehicle Division for additional FTEs to provide the necessary services to process Commercial Drivers Licenses (CDLs).

While it is unusual for a business organization to support state agency budget requests for additional FTE, it is a rather unusual situation that has developed with the economic growth in certain areas of the State. As you are aware, the oil and gas development, while providing great opportunities for affected communities, has also stressed infrastructure and services; one being the ability to process in a timely manner, commercial drivers' licenses. Our members have a challenge in serving their customers in a timely manner just due to the increased demand. Increased demand means the fuel distributor has had to hire more drivers and typically these individuals must secure their CDL in order to qualify. The long waits of up to six weeks to process licenses is stressing the industry which is made more complicated for fuel distributors as the CDL must also carry with it a HazMat designation.

We are concerned that without the added FTEs the long waits between testing and license issuance will increase, especially in the eastern part of the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our comments; we would urge the committee to re-instate DP1201 into House Bill 2.

Sincerely;


Ronna Alexander, Executive Director

EXHIBIT

DATE

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